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REVIEW OF MOLDAVIAN SSR AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS AT REPUBLIC PARTY CONGRESS

The 19 September 1952 report by L. I. Brezhnev, Secretary, TsK KP(b) of Moldavia, to the Fourth Congress of the KP(b) of Moldavia contained the following information on the progress of agriculture in the republic:

The yield of kolkhoz and sovkhoz fields in the republic has increased considerably during the period since the Third Congress. Wheat production has risen by several million pud as compared with 1950; gross harvests of other crops have increased as follows: sugar beets 3.2 times, tobacco more than 1.5 times, and raw cotton 3.5 times.

Kolkhozes of the republic fulfilled the Three-Year (1949-1951) Livestock Development Plan ahead of schedule. During the period from the Third Congress to 1 July 1952, livestock numbers in kolkhozes of the republic increased as follows: cattle 31.5 percent, including cows 53.4 percent; sheep and goats 83.7 percent; hogs 76.1 percent; horses 25.4 percent; and fowl 31.4 percent. All kolkhozes now have at least four livestock farms.

Deliveries of grain, vegetables, fruit, grapes, oleaginous and industrial crops, meat, milk, and wool to the state increased considerably. In 1952, as in previous years, the republic fulfilled the plan for grain (excluding maize) procurement ahead of schedule.

At present, there are 1,093 kolkhozes in the republic, including 632 consolidated kolkhozes. At present, 34.2 percent of all kolkhoz chairmen have a higher or secondary education and 268 are agricultural specialists.

During the period since the Third Congress, party, soviet, and agricultural organizations have achieved notable progress in bringing about better soil cultivation practices. Achievements include the following: a shortening of the time periods required for completing important agricultural operations; wider use of such agrotechnical measures as plowing of winter fallow, deep plowing, and

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shallow plowing of stubble; more general sowing of graded seed; greater application of local and mineral fertilizers to the soil; and introduction of such new procedures as check-row and crisscross sowing, summer sowing of alfalfa, and artificial pollination. All this has helped kolkhozes of many areas to obtain rich harvests without regard to weather conditions. But, in the republic as a whole, yield of agricultural crops remains spotty and, in general, very low.

The area sown to sugar beets has tripled as compared with 1950. In 1951, the beet-growing rayons fulfilled the plan for beet production. But even the leading beet-growing rayons of the republic, Tyrnovskiy, Atakskiy, Lipkanskiy, and others have not yet attained yields of up to 265 quintals per hectare, the figure to be reached in Moldavia during the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

The area sown to cotton, a new crop in Moldavia, has increased 16 times during the last 2 years. To aid the development of cotton growing in the republic, the USSR government has sent much cotton-growing equipment and more than 4,000 metric tons of mineral fertilizers into the republic during the last 2 years. A further rise in cotton yield depends on the mastery of cotton-growing agrotechniques and observance of agronomic rules and cultivation schedules.

Kolkhozes have increased the growing of seed grasses, and most kolkhozes were able to provide themselves with adequate grass seed for their own use. This gives rise to the possibility of rapidly expanding the grass field crop rotation system.

A serious shortcoming in the development of animal husbandry is low productivity. The 1951 plan for milk yield per cow was not fulfilled in kolkhozes of the republic. Fulfillment of the 1952 plan is lagging badly. The main reasons for this lag are inadequacy of the fodder base, low livestock quality, and lack of knowledge about animal husbandry on the part of kolkhoz workers. The Ministry of Agriculture and many party and soviet organs pay little attention to the matter of improving livestock quality. There are many instances in which people are appointed to work on livestock farms, even though they have little or no experience in or knowledge of animal husbandry or do not even care about this type of work.

In connection with a growth in livestock numbers, kolkhozes face the urgent task of providing all collectivized livestock with well-constructed shelters by not later than the end of 1954.

Monetary income of kolkhozes increased 55 percent in 1951, as compared with 1950. At present, every third kolkhoz in the republic has an income of more than one million rubles. In 1951, the indivisible funds of kolkhozes increased 70 percent over 1950, while expenditures for buildings used in kolkhoz production processes, electric power plants, and orchard and vineyard expansion rose 81 percent over 1950; capital expenditures from indivisible funds are planned to be twice as great in 1952 as in 1951.

Considerable sums of these kolkhoz funds are used for construction purposes. Whereas 302 shelters were constructed in 1950, 2,644 livestock and other shelters were built in 1951; in 1952, as of 1 August, 2,946 shelters had been built and 2,226 were under construction. However, in some kolkhozes indivisible funds are used for purposes which constitute gross violations of the kolkhoz charter. It is necessary to establish strict control, so that expenditures from the indivisible funds of every kolkhoz are made for purposes in strict conformity with fulfillment of the capital construction plan.

One of the very serious shortcomings in the republic's agriculture is unsatisfactory labor discipline in most kolkhozes. Labor discipline must be strengthened so that each kolkhoz worker takes an active part in collective work and fulfills the minimum number of workdays set for each worker.

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During the period since the Third Congress, many cases of land diversion, pilferage of kolkhoz property, and other violations of the kolkhoz charter were uncovered.

The capacity of the tractor park increased considerably. MTS also received many other new machines. However, machinery utilization was poor in most MTS. The average output per 15-horsepower tractor in 1951 was lower than in other republics. Many machine operators have a poor general education and equally poor technical training. If MTS could solve the cadre problem, they could cope with their assigned tasks.

The Ministry of Agriculture and its local organs are guilty of serious shortcomings: state discipline is on a low level; execution of orders is verified superficially; administrations of the ministry do not disseminate widely the experiences of leading rayons, MTS, kolkhozes, and workers, selection and investigation of ministerial cadres is carried out in a particularly unthorough manner.

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